

Press Release



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Vintage Engines Featured at Ft. Ransom Sodbuster Days

Vintage small stationary engines will be featured at the 22nd annual Fort Ransom Sodbuster Days July 9-10. Held at Fort Ransom State Park in southeastern North Dakota, Sodbuster Days celebrates the state's homesteading and ethnic heritage with horse-drawn field work, pioneer homemaking skills, music, stick-to-the-ribs foods and much more.

Sponsored by the volunteer Fort Ransom Sodbusters Association, Sodbuster Days demonstrations are held from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Additional activities include a Saturday night roast beef dinner, followed by an old-time music jam session; and on Sunday, farm breakfast and parade.

Twenty-plus teams of Belgian and Percheron horses will demonstrate field work, such as haying, or hitched to "people movers" for wagon rides.

Visitors will also see an operating blacksmith shop, pedal-powered woodworking, gas-powered engines and a wheelwright at work. A silent auction and pie auction will be held Saturday afternoon, and on Sunday, a turn-of-the-century style show is set for 2 p.m.

Ladies' activities will be going on throughout the grounds on both days, including preparing and serving ethnic, farm-style foods such as lefse, rommegrot, doughnuts and corn muffins; and homemaking and pioneer crafts like looming, rug weaving, Brazilian embroidery and more. Demonstrations on flintknapping can also be seen both days.

Supervised activities for youngsters from pre-school to 12, with games, crafts and prizes, will be held Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

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Play in our backyard!

Food and beverages will be available throughout the weekend. On Saturday at 6 p.m., an old-fashioned roast beef dinner and all the trimmings will be served. Tickets are \$7.50 for adults, \$3.50 for children 6-12, and free to children under the age of 6. Supper will be followed by an old-time music jam session beginning at 8 p.m.

On Sunday, breakfast is scheduled from 7-9:30 a.m., followed by an interdenominational church service at 9 a.m. with Pastor Dave Carlson presiding. Everyone is welcome to participate or watch the Sodbusters Days parade, which begins at 10:30 a.m. Sunday. For information on entering, call 924-8307 or 642-2015.

Cost to attend Sodbuster Days is \$5/person per day, with children 12 and under admitted free. The regular state park entrance fee will be waived. For those wishing to spend the weekend, the park offers camping with electrical hookups, showers, plenty of picnicking areas and canoe and kayak rentals. The park is located along the Sheyenne River Valley National Scenic Byway, 35 miles south of Valley City, 18 miles northwest of Lisbon or two miles north of the town of Fort Ransom. For more information, call the park at (701) 973-4331.